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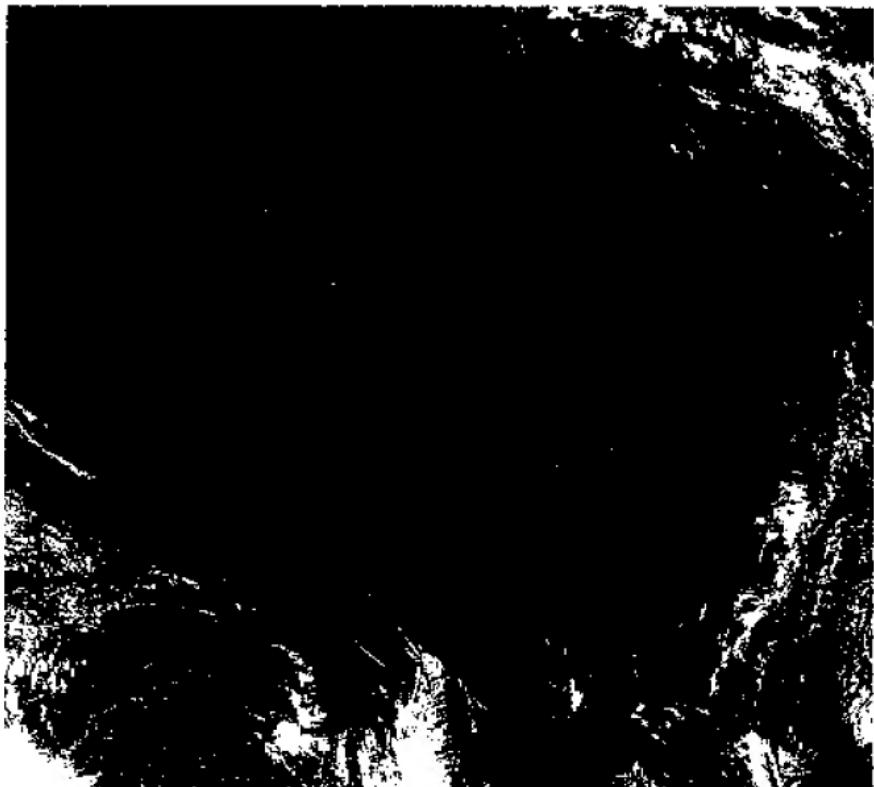


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ASIA

at a glance



Australia comprises a land area of 7 682 300 square kilometres. The land lies between latitudes 10°41'S. (Cape York) and 43°39'S. (South Cape, Tasmania) and between longitudes 113°09'E. (Sleep Point) and 153°39'E. (Cape Byron). The most southerly point on the mainland is South Point (Wilson's Promontory) 39°08'S.

Australia is composed of six States: New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia, Tasmania and two Territories: Northern Territory, Australian Capital Territory.

<i>State/Territory</i>	<i>Area ('000 km²)</i>	<i>Population June 1992 ('000)</i>
New South Wales	802	5 959
Victoria	228	4 449
Queensland	1 727	3 030
South Australia	984	1 456
Western Australia	2 526	1 657
Tasmania	68	470
Northern Territory	1 346	167
Australian Capital Territory	12	**294
Australia	7 682	17 483

* Excludes Jervis Bay Territory. ** Includes Jervis Bay Territory.

AGRICULTURE		1990-91	1991-92	1992-93p	FINANCE		1989-90	1990-91	1991-92
Gross value of agriculture	\$m	21 159	20 861	21 547	Government finance		134 019	138 487	135 539
Crops	\$m	9 075	9 866	10 418	Revenue (all governments)	\$m	50 020	50 170	46 544
Livestock slaughtering etc.	\$m	5 721	5 738	6 013	Cwith income tax, persons	\$m	41 239	43 191	40 660
Livestock products	\$m	6 354	5 244	5 103	Other Cwith government taxes	\$m	24 352	26 068	27 869
Wheat production	'000 t	15 066	10 557	15 105	State and local government taxes	\$m	140 872	149 918	160 606
Wool production	'000 t	843	736	732	Total outlay (all governments)	\$m	55 327	60 628	64 836
Meat production (excl. poultry)	'000 t	2 741	2 794	2 823	Final consumption expenditure	\$m	32 539	37 368	42 393
				Personal benefit payments to residents	\$m	21 884	21 989	21 414	
				Expenditure on new fixed assets	\$m				
BALANCE OF PAYMENTS		1990-91	1991-92	1992-93	Private finance		1990-91	1991-92	1992-93
Balance on current account	\$m	- 16 247	- 12 380	- 15 446	Assets of financial institutions (June balances)				
Balance of merchandise trade (BOP basis)	\$m	2 899	3 876	601	Banks(a)	\$m	353 733	361 908	382 854
Net services	\$m	- 3 405	- 2 599	- 2 708	FCA corporations(a)(b)	\$m	131 153	122 091	111 851
Net income	\$m	- 18 219	- 15 945	- 14 078	Statutory funds of life offices	\$m	92 700	102 161	107 139
Net unrequited transfers	\$m	2 478	2 288	739	Superannuation & approved deposit funds	\$m	78 102	88 382	97 045
Balance on capital account	\$m	17 421	16 082	14 065	Public unit trusts	\$m	25 779	25 599	28 396
Total official	\$m	- 1 151	6 684	13 105	Friendly societies	\$m	8 282	8 988	9 182
Total non-official	\$m	18 572	9 398	961	Common funds	\$m	6 734	4 373	4 573
				Cash management trusts	\$m	5 756	5 345	5 136	
BUILDING		1990-91	1991-92	1992-93	Consumer finance commitments				
New houses completed	'000	98	100	115	Housing finance to individuals	\$m	20 776	28 538	36 811
New other residential building completed	'000	37	33	41	Personal finance to individuals	\$m	20 242	19 598	20 682
Value of new residential building completed	\$m	11 657	11 284	13 194	Business finance commitments				
Value of non-residential building completed	\$m	14 913	12 122	10 167	Commercial finance	\$m	87 294	76 645	86 694
				Lease finance	\$m	5 209	4 477	5 009	

(a) Source: Reserve Bank of Australia. (b) Includes corporations registered as categories A to G under the Financial Corporation Act, such as building societies, credit unions and money market corporations.

CLIMATE

	Average annual rainfall (mm)	Average daily hours of sunshine	Average temperature					
			January		July		Max. °C	Min. °C
			Max. °C	Min. °C	Max. °C	Min. °C		
Canberra	632	7.5	27.7	12.9	11.1	-0.2		
Sydney	1 227	6.8	25.8	18.5	16.1	7.9		
Melbourne	658	5.7	25.7	14.0	13.3	5.8		
Brisbane	1 201	7.9	29.2	20.9	20.6	9.4		
Adelaide	530	6.9	28.5	16.6	14.9	7.5		
Perth	868	7.9	29.7	17.9	17.4	9.0		
Hobart	624	5.9	21.5	11.7	11.5	4.6		
Darwin	1 659	8.4	31.7	24.8	30.4	19.3		

Source: Bureau of Meteorology.

CONSUMER PRICE AND OTHER PRICE INDEXES

	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93
Consumer price index			
weighted average of 8 capital cities, all groups	1989-90=100.0	105.3	107.3
Export	1989-90=100.0	95.1	89.6
Import	1989-90=100.0	103.2	102.7
Building materials—house	1985-86=100.0	142.1	p112.1
Building materials—other	1979-80=100.0	243.7	p145.2
Manufacturing			
Materials used	1984-85=100.0	123.8	120.7
Articles produced	1988-89=100.0	111.2	p114.3

DEMOGRAPHY

	1990	1991	1992
Population at 30 June	'000	17 065.1	17 284.0
Aged less than 15	%	22.0	21.9
Aged 15-64	%	66.9	66.8
Aged 65 and over	%	11.1	11.3
			11.5

FOREIGN TRADE

		1990-91	1991-92	1992-93
Total exports, f.o.b.	\$m	52 399	55 026	60 773
Total imports, (customs value)	\$m	48 912	50 984	59 586
Percentage of total exports to				
Japan	%	27.4	26.5	25.0
ASEAN	%	12.1	13.2	14.2
EC	%	12.2	12.5	11.6
Percentage of total imports from				
Japan	%	18.1	18.2	18.7
USA	%	23.5	23.0	21.8
Major export commodities, f.o.b.				
Coal, coke and briquettes	\$m	6 481	6 948	7 621
Metaliferous ores and metal	\$m	8 296	7 639	7 574
Machinery and transport equipment	\$m	4 630	5 033	6 409
Gold, non-monetary	\$m	3 672	4 023	4 315
Non-ferrous metals	\$m	3 758	3 557	3 987
Meat of sheep, goats and bovine	\$m	2 969	3 198	3 455
Wool, not carded/combed	\$m	2 807	3 462	2 981
Wheat	\$m	1 696	1 510	1 979
Major import commodities (customs value)				
Machinery	\$m	14 073	14 687	17 590
Transport equipment	\$m	7 615	7 308	8 319
Chemicals and related products	\$m	5 118	5 575	6 624
HEALTH				
Beds at 30 June				
Recognised (public) hospitals	no.	63 574	64 592	56 276
Private hospitals	no.	21 909	22 312	21 974
Day hospital facilities	no.	331	507	561
All beds	no.	85 814	87 411	78 811
Beds	per '000 population	5.0	5.0	4.5
Hospitals at 30 June				
Recognised (public) hospitals	no.	702	705	706
Private hospitals	no.	330	324	320
Day hospital facilities	no.	40	60	78
All hospitals	no.	1 072	1 089	1 104

Source: Department of Health, Housing, Local Government and Community Services.

Births	'000	263	257	264	Major causes of death				
Overseas born mothers	%	24.2	24.0	24.2	Heart disease	no.	38 196	37 408	38 877
Australian born mothers	%	75.8	76.0	75.8	Malignant neoplasms (cancer)	no.	30 464	31 285	32 033
Deaths	'000	120	119	124	Cerebrovascular disease (stroke)	no.	12 085	11 883	11 988
Marriages	'000	117	114	115	Respiratory disease	no.	9 001	8 906	10 069
Divorces	'000	43	46	46	Accidents	no.	5 204	4 797	4 678
Overseas movements		1990-91	1991-92	1992-93	Suicide	no.	2 161	2 360	2 294
Net permanent and long-term movement	'000	95	90	63	Total deaths	no.	120 662	119 146	123 660
Visitor arrivals, short-term	'000	2 227	2 520	2 786					
Resident departures, short-term	'000	2 116	2 174	2 300					

INTERNATIONAL COMPARISONS 1991-92

Country	Balance on merchandise trade (\$ US mill.)	Consumer price index (all items)(a) (1985=100.0)	Producer price index (1985=100.0)
Australia	3 021	153.8	140.1
Canada	9 256	134.6	108.8
France	1 834	124.3	104.7
Germany	17 905	117.6	106.9
Italy	- 13 243	150.7	122.7
Japan	93 358	112.9	96.3
NZ	1 295	163.1	130.7
OECD Major 7	..	129.9	112.7
UK	- 26 380	147.6	135.7
USA	- 70 972	132.5	116.8

(a) Source: National Centre for Vocational Education Research Limited.

(b) Source: Department of Employment, Education and Training.

EXCHANGE RATES (average)

	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93
United States dollar	units per \$A	0.7853	0.7694
United Kingdom pound	units per \$A	0.4240	0.4381
German mark	units per \$A	1.248	1.274
Japanese yen	units per \$A	107.60	100.97
			84.22

(a) 1992-93.

Source: Exchange rates are derived using rates provided by the Reserve Bank of Australia in respect of each trading day.